ONGC under Government Control

2234. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) enjoys the status of a Navratna company;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the privileges enjoyed by it being a Navratna company;

(c) whether in a letter dated November 7, 2005 his Ministry has asked the Department of Public Enterprises to review the ONGC's Navratna status and revert the company under full Government control; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The privileges enjoyed by Navratna companies are detailed in the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises on the 22nd July, 1997, as amended from time to time.

(c) and (d) ONGC have not concluded their MOU with the Government for the year 2005-06. As the Ministry are of the view that a signed draft submitted by ONGC is not entirely in accordance with the recommendations of the Task Force constituted by the DPE for this purpose, DPE have been apprised of the position and their advice sought on further action. There is no proposal to review ONGC's Navratna Status.

Waiver of Tax dues of Oil Refineries

2235. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to waiver-off tax dues from the oil refining majors like IOC, BPCL and others and also Reliance Industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in order to facilitate the smooth transition from Administered Pricing Mechanism